



Illawarra Coal



Bulli Seam Operations Shale Sandstone Transition Forest Offset Management Plan





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REVISION HISTORY

Version	Description of Changes	Date	By
3.0	Original Plan Incorporating comments from draft submissions.	May 2013	Niche Environment & Heritage
4.0	Table 11 updated to conduct the 1 st round of annual flora monitoring (photo point, condition and weed monitoring) in Spring 2014.	May 2014	David Gregory
5.0	Plan updated to reflect the approved offset mechanism (BioBanking).	Aug 2017	David Gregory
	<p>EPBC Approval updated to include Condition 5A</p> <p><i>If the Shale Sandstone Transition Forest Offset is legally secured as a registered NSW BioBanking site, the management plan developed under the NSW BioBanking Agreement for that site is an Offset Management Plan for the purposes of Condition 4. The annual reporting required under that scheme may be provided to the department in place of the reports containing monitoring results required at Condition 5c, on the proviso that all</i></p>	April 2018	David Gregory

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Version	Description of Changes	Date	By
	<i>measures specified in Condition 5 are covered.</i>		

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1 INTRODUCTION

The EPBC Approval conditions for the Bulli Seam Operations (BSO) require a biodiversity offset of at least 44.9 Ha of Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (SSTF) as well as an Offset Management Plan. In 2012, IC identified a suitable site in Douglas Park NSW, within the Wollondilly Local Government Area (LGA). The land is approximately 86 hectares in size which includes bushland, a transmission line easement, a small paddock, and several access tracks. The Offset area is comprised of two parcels of land, separated from each other by Douglas Park Drive.

In-line with the EPBC conditions at the time (2012), IC provided an Offset Management Plan as well as ecological survey information. The original SSTF Offset Plan was approved by the Department of the Environment (DOTE) in June 2013. In 2014, IC was granted an additional 18 months to secure the Offset for long term conservation purposes.

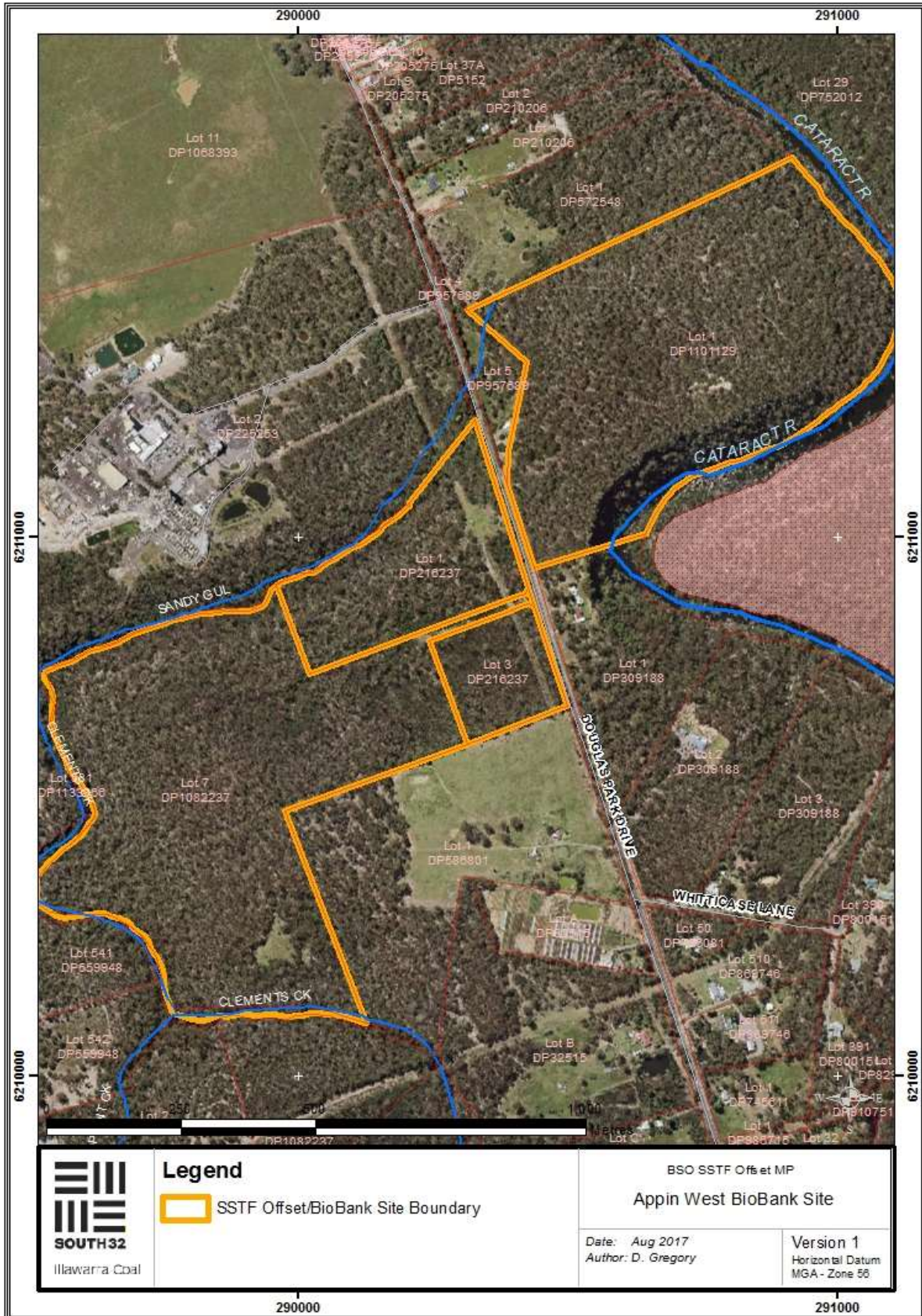
1.1 Offset Location

The northern area is located within Lot 1 DP 1101129. It is bordered to the north by private property, the Cataract River to the east and south, and Douglas Park Drive to the west. The southern area is located within Lot 1 DP216237 and Lot 7 DP1082237. It is bordered by Douglas Park Drive to the east, Clements Creek to the north and west, and private property to the south. The Appin West Colliery Pit-top is located approximately 200 metres the north on the opposite side of Clements Creek. The land is currently owned by Illawarra Coal (Refer to Figure 1).

Past land use of the study area involved agricultural practices and probably timber cutting.

The study area is connected to other vegetated areas along the Cataract River to the north and Clements Creek to the south.

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Figure 1: SSTF Offset/BioBank Site Location

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1.2 Offset Mechanism

In October 2015, IC made an application to NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) to have the SSTF offset secured via a BioBanking Agreement under Part 7A Division 2 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The BioBanking Agreement was finalised and executed on 1st February 2017. The Offset is now to be managed in accordance with the BioBanking Agreement, ID Number 215 (Refer to Section 4).

1.3 Relevant Consent Conditions

Condition Number	Requirement	How Addressed in This Report
4	The person taking action must implement the approved Bulli Seam Operations Shale Sandstone Transition Forest Offset Management Plan. The person taking the action must legally secure the offset area for long term conservation purposes by 2 March 2016.	This Plan and the BioBanking Agreement satisfy this condition; and Section 1.2
5	The person taking the action must provide to the Minister for approval within 1 year of the date of this approval a plan for the management of the Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest Offset. The approved Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest Offset Management Plan (the Forest plan) must include but not be limited to:	Condition was met in 2012 during the original draft submission of the SSTF MP.
5 (a)	Specific management measures to control weed species, pest animals, public access and otherwise manage the Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest Offset so that the ecological condition of the Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest is maintained or enhanced to a higher condition than that being lost as a result of this action.	Refer to the BioBanking Agreement, specifically Annexure C: Management Actions and Management Plans
5 (a) (i)	This may be demonstrated through comparisons of floristic diversity and structure, vegetation health and/or percentage cover of introduced or weed plants.	Refer to the BioBanking Agreement, Annexure D: Monitoring, Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements, Condition 1.3.
5 (b)	An outline of the key milestones and performance objectives.	Refer to the BioBanking Agreement, specifically Annexure C: Management Actions and Management Plans
5 (c)	Measures for the annual monitoring of the on-going quality (as measured against the ecological survey information referred to at Conditions 4 (a) of the Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest Offset and the effectiveness of management actions. Reporting containing the	Refer to the BioBanking Agreement, Annexure D: Monitoring, Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements, Condition 1.3.

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Condition Number	Requirement	How Addressed in This Report
	monitoring results must be submitted to the department within 30 days of every 12 month anniversary of the date the Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest Offset is protected in perpetuity.	
5 (d)	Corrective actions and contingency measures to be implemented should monitoring indicate a decrease in the quality of the Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest conservation offset.	Refer to the BioBanking Agreement, specifically Annexure C: Management Actions and Management Plans
	The Approved Forest plan must be implemented within 2 years of the date of this approval	Original Plan (Rev 3 & 4) satisfied this requirement.
5A (condition added 2018)	If the Shale Sandstone Transition Forest Offset is legally secured as a registered NSW BioBanking site, the management plan developed under the NSW BioBanking Agreement for that site is an Offset Management Plan for the purposes of Condition 4. The annual reporting required under that scheme may be provided to the department in place of the reports containing monitoring results required at Condition 5c, on the proviso that all measures specified in Condition 5 are covered.	Refer to the BioBanking Agreement

1.4 BioBanking Conditions

Refer to the BioBanking Agreement (Section 4).

1.5 Bulli Seam Operations Project Environmental Assessment

It was recognised in the EA that minor works associated with the proposal may result in minor clearing of SSTF throughout the life of the project. As a precautionary measure, South32 IC has committed to clearing no more than 9 ha of SSTF over the life of the project.

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2 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Management actions will be conducted as per the BioBanking Agreement, Annexure C (Management actions and management plans).

3 MONITORING, RECORD KEEPING & REPORTING

Monitoring, record keeping and reporting will be conducted as per the BioBanking Agreement, Annexure D (Monitoring, reporting and record keeping requirements).

This will include an Annual BioBank Report to include the information required under Annexure D, Condition 2.5.

A copy of the BioBank report will also be submitted to the Department of the Environment and Energy (DOTEE) to satisfy the EPBC Approval conditions.

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4 BIOBANKING AGREEMENT

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